



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2018

6:30 PM

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public - Dr. James Carlton spoke regarding a series of scientific, management, and procedural questions he previously submitted to the commission in writing (see Correspondence below).
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on September 7, 2017 and special meeting of December 7, 2017 - A **motion** to approve the September 7, 2017 minutes with minor modifications (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously, with Ms. Getchis and Mr. Moore abstaining. A **motion** to approve the December 7, 2017 minutes as presented (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously, with Mr. Swenarton abstaining.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) A letter dated December 2, 2017 from Stephen Brown, SSC member, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Decision not to request appointment to a second term on the SSC.
 - b) A letter dated December 9, 2017 from Tim Giuliani, Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Aquaculture remuneration.
 - c) A letter dated December 12, 2017 from Jim Markow, Aeros Cultured Oysters, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Request for Aquaculture License extension for grounds in the Mystic River south of Murphy Point.
 - d) A letter dated December 28, 2017 from Dr. James Carlton, Stonington CT, to Donald Murphy, SSC re: Potential use of the water of Lower Quiambug Cove for the establishment of a private commercial oyster industry.
 - e) A letter dated December 29, 2017 from David Motherway, Stonington CT, to Donald Murphy, SSC re: Comments on the December 28, 2017 letter from Dr. James Carlton (referenced above) to D. Murphy and on the proposed application from Mr. Dana Lewis to conduct aquaculture in Lower Quiambug Cove.
- 5) Business
 - a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas - Outer Quiambug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B) - All three conditional areas were open from December 2 to December 31. All water samples collected on December 18, 2017 had excellent results. Conditional commercial areas in State waters and Town aquaculture areas licensed to Garrett Timmons and Fred Emery were closed following a disinfecting system failure at the Stonington Borough sewage treatment plant. An oyster meat sample from Garrett Timmons grounds in outer Wequetequock Cove also had high bacteria counts following that event and those grounds will require retesting.
 - b) Discuss the transplanting of clams into recreational conditional shellfishing Area A - SSC

transplanted more than 2,000 mature oysters and 6,421 clams in December 2017, provided by aquaculture license holders as remuneration, into recreational shellfishing Area A.

- c) Discuss the Shellfish Commission's budget submission for the 2018-2019 fiscal year - SSC Town budget allocation will remain the same as previous years (\$50). There are some minor modifications to the SSC function description for FY 2018-2019.
 - d) Review of modifications to the Shellfish Commission's web site - Peter Moore provided a draft Aquaculture License Application checklist for SSC review. A draft Guidance Document for completing an Application to Conduct Aquaculture in Town of Stonington Waters provided by Don Raffo and a draft application flowchart developed by Alan Banister were also reviewed. Tessa Getchis noted that State and Federal form will be changing. Aquaculture application materials from other Connecticut towns will be acquired to aid in our updates. A workshop to review draft materials will be scheduled in mid-February. D. Murphy provided draft updated shellfish maps for the Management Plan for SSC review.
 - e) Enforcement - No report.
 - f) Equipment - winterizing and storage of the Commission's boat - The boat is covered and on land at Don's Dock. Alan Banister reported that inspection of engine lower unit oil by PMW Marine found no excess of metal chips that were observed last year, and the engine was in good working order overall.
 - g) Discuss the request by Aeros Oyster Co. to renew its aquaculture license agreement for the use of two plots: 18.9 acres south of Murphy Point (North Mason 1) and 4.9 acres west of the YMCA Beach (YMCA Beach) (AQP-05-2007-2017) - A motion to approve Mr. Markow's request to extend the licenses (Getchis/Banister) was approved unanimously.
 - h) Discuss the letter dated November 27, 2017 from Tara Galbo presenting questions from Dana Lewis about how to improve his aquaculture application - SSC members reviewed the letter and developed responses to the questions submitted. Chairman Murphy will provide a written response letter to Attorney Galbo.
 - i) Review of finances; collections, bills, remuneration - SSC received payment of \$1006.00 from Don's Dock from sale of shellfish permits. Shellfish boat winterizing invoices were reviewed as were remuneration spreadsheets.
 - j) Commercial shellfishing - Garrett Timmons and Fred Emery reported they were shut down due to Stonington Sewage Treatment Plant problems. Steve Plant reported that he is currently working down his inventory and has been assisting with collection of caged oysters as part of the Mystic Sewage Treatment Plant study.
- 7) Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made (Banister/Moore) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary